

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 /097 W
-----021543 113637 /41

P R 021415Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4245
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 0955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEWSWEEK ARTICLE CONTINUES UNABATED

1. THE ADVERSE REACTION TO THE ARTICLE ON JAMAICA WHICH APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY 28 EDITION OF NEWSWEEK CONTINUES UNABATED, AT LEAST ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT OR SEEK TO GUIDE THE PRESENT PEPPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) GOVERNMENT. THE NON-PNP LEFT APPEARS TO BE DISPLAYING PARTICULAR OUTRAGE. TREVOR MUNROE'S WORKERS LIBERATION LEAGUE (WLL) ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, DEMANDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON CANCEL HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. THE WLL SAID THAT NEWSWEEK SUPPORTS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, "THE PARTY OF THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT, CARTER, AND ITS SENIOR PEOPLE ARE ON THE INSIDE OF THE MAKING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, PRIMARILY THROUGH THEIR POSITIONS ON THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (SIC)..."

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2. ANOTHER EXPRESSION OF OUTRAGE WAS VOICED BY JOHN MAXWELL OF THE DAILY NEWS, WHO IS AT LEAST AS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ALCOHOLISM AND HIS ADULATION OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AS FOR HIS JOURNALISM. MAXWELL USED THIRTY COLUMN INCHES TO MAKE THE ASSERTION THAT THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE IS SIMPLY THE SECOND STAGE IN AN AMERICAN PROGRAM OF DE-STABILIZA-

TION. HE TIES NEWSWEEK TO THE "AMERICAN ESTABLISHMENT," WHICH INVOLVES AN UNEASY LINK WITH CIA. HE SAYS, " IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE CIA HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN JAMAICA, INTENT ON DESTABLISING THIS GOVERNMENT AND MAKING JAMAICA, ONCE AGAIN SAFE FOR CAPITALISM"...

" THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE BY DE BORCHGRAVE IS A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE IN THE SECOND STRATEGY..." " I HAVE NO PROOF THAT HE (DE BORCHGRAVE) IS IN THE PAY OF CIA OR ANYONE ELSE BUT NEWSWEEK BUT I KNOW THAT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARE JUST AS MUCH PART OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AS THEIR PRESIDENT'S CABINET MEMBERS ARE. AND JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO FAVOURS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENTS THEY REPRESENT." (COMMENT: PERHAPS JOHN MAXWELL IS PARTICULARLY SUITED TO MAKE THAT LAST REMARK.)

3. THE CRIES OF OUTRAGE BY THE WLL AND A JOURNALIST LIKE MAXWELL, WHO SEES HIMSELF AS A LEFTIST, ARE HARDLY SURPRISING FOR THEY ACTIVELY FEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY IN FACT SEEK RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE PRICE OF SUCH RAPPROCHEMENT WILL BE A DIMINUTION OF --OR OUTRIGHT END TO-- THE INFLUENCE THEY NOW ENJOY, AND WISH TO KEEP. A RELEASE BY THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (API), THE GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION SERVICE, ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE EDITED NEWSWEEK MANLEY INTERVIEW MAY HAVE BEEN OVERSELECTIVE IN THE CHOICE OF MATERIAL, WITH ADVERSE RESULTS.
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IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A "SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT", API HAS RELEASED ITS OWN VERSION OF CORRESPONDENT DE BORCHGRAVE'S INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. THE TRANSCRIPT OFFERS EIGHT SIGNIFICANT EXPANSIONS OVER THE EXCERPTS APPEARING IN THE NEWSWEEK ACCOUNT. IT SHOWS THAT MANLEY:

A. SPOKE AT LENGTH OF HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY;

B. OUTLINED HIS IDEAS RE SOCIAL CHANGE IN JAMAICA, AND STRESSED THAT HIS "EGALITARIAN OBJECTIVE" IS NOT A "PIPE DREAM" BUT IS REALIZABLE;

C. SAID THAT THE ISSUE BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE IMF IS SIMPLE: " WE DO NOT AGREE WITH WHAT THE IMF WANTED US TO DO". ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONS COMECON AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, THE REAL NEED IS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER;

D. DENIED THAT HE RETURNED FROM CUBA A

"CHANGED MAN;"

E. REITERATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A ROLE
IN FACILITATING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND CUBA;
F. STATED THAT JAMAICA CANNOT SEEK COMPLETE

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USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 /097 W
-----021543 113692 /42

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 0955

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE; HE
SAID THAT IN TODAY'S WORLD, ALL COUN-
TRIES ARE INTERDEPENDENT. HOWEVER, HE
WANTS JAMAICA FREE TO CONTROL ITS OPTIONS,
AND IMPLIED THAT CUBA WAS TOO DEPENDENT ON
THE SOVIET UNION;

G. DENIED THAT THE SPECIAL BRANCH HAD EVER
INFORMED HIM ABOUT A LINK BETWEEN PHILIP
AGEE AND THE CUBANS; AND

H. ASSERTED THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN "DE-
STABILIZATION" ATTEMPTS INCLUDED NOT ONLY
THE MAFIA BUT ALSO "SOME GROUPS IN JAMAICA"
AND "SOME MIGRANTS".

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE OUTRAGE OF THE TREVOR MUNROES
AND JOHN MAXWELLS MAY BE OF LITTLE MOMENT TO US, THE
DISPLAY OF SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE JAMAICAN
GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS BEEN REVEALED BY THE PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON AS WELL
AS BY THE LESS DRAMATIC API RELEASE CONTINUES TO BE A

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MATTER FOR OUR OWN CONCERN. WE KNOW THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON HAS FOUND THE ASSERTION THAT THE CUBANS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PNP ELECTION VICTORY LAST DECEMBER DEEPLY TROUBLING. HE, AND WE SUPPOSE OTHERS WHO DO NOT SHARE THE VIEWS OF THE LEFTISTS, READ THE ASSERTION AS A CHALLENGE TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. PATTERSON HAS SAID THAT IF THE ASSERTION WERE TRUE, IT WOULD LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITY BY DOMESTIC OPPONENTS AND POSSIBLY EVEN INTERVENTION FROM ABROAD.

5. MINISTER HOWARD COOKE, A CABINET MODERATE AND CLOSE FRIEND OF FONMIN PATTERSON TOLD AMBASSADOR TUESDAY THAT PATTERSON THOUGHT HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ON MONDAY " HAD GONE VERY WELL" IN THAT IT HELPED CLEAR THE AIR.

GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST00955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-1236
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2942255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO NEWSWEEK ARTICLE CONTINUES UNABATED
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, JM, US, NEWSWEEK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d74988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009